BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

BCStats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca Issue: 11-01 January 7, 2011

- **BC's jobless rate rises to 7.6% in December**
- **Retail sales advance 1.2% in October**
- **Sales at food service & drinking places rise 0.7% in October**

Labour Force Survey

- **British Columbia's jobless rate jumped 0.7 percentage points to 7.6% (*seasonally adjusted*) in December.** The province shed roughly 22,500 jobs during the month, a decline of 1.0%, outstripping the contraction in the size of the labour force (-0.2%).

  While the workforces for manufacturing (-1,800) and forestry, fishing & mining (-1,700) shrank in December, the largest source of job losses in the goods sector was the construction sector. Employment in construction fell sharply (-10,200) in December, accounting for roughly three-quarters of the decline in goods sector employment.

  On the services side, the most significant job losses were registered in health care & social assistance (-11,300). Employment in finance, insurance and real estate (-8,700) was also down significantly from the previous month. However, a few sectors made considerable employment gains in December, including transportation & warehousing (+6,800), public administration (+4,800) and accommodation & food services (+3,000).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Unemployment rates at the regional level (*3-month moving average, unadjusted*) ranged from a low of 5.8% in Vancouver Island/Coast to a high of 8.6% in Kootenay.** Compared to the same period last year, employment gains were made in every region except Kootenay (-7.0%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Nationally, employment edged higher (+0.1%; *seasonally adjusted*) for a second straight month in December, largely driven by gains made in manufacturing (+3.8%) and transportation & warehousing (+5.4%).** Employment gains were focused in Quebec (+0.6%), Ontario (+0.3%) and Newfoundland & Labrador (+1.1%). Employment fell in most of Western Canada, most notably in BC (-1.0%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

The Economy

- **Retailers in British Columbia saw sales advance 1.2% (*seasonally adjusted*) in October, marking a third consecutive monthly increase in revenues.** While sellers of electronics & appliances (-1.6%) experienced a slump in returns during the month, gasoline stations (+6.3%) and clothing stores (+1.1%) posted significant gains.

  Nationally, retail sales were up for a fifth straight month, rising 0.8% in October, largely due to a sharp increase in sales at gasoline stations (+7.4%). Nine provinces posted higher sales with the most significant increases coming from BC (+1.2%), Quebec (+1.0%) and Ontario (+0.7%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

- **British Columbia's wholesalers registered a 1.0% drop (*seasonally adjusted*) in sales in October.** Weaker sales at distributors of food, beverage & tobacco (-2.2%), machinery & equipment (-5.1%) and building supplies (-1.4%) offset sharp gains made by wholesalers of motor vehicles (+3.2%).

  Nationally, wholesale sales were flat in October after advancing 0.7% in the previous month. Most provinces saw wholesales sales slip lower with the largest declines posted in Newfoundland & Labrador (-10.9%) and

Did you know...

Most British Columbians (86%) believe that natural areas enjoyed currently will not be around for their children or grandchildren.

Data Source: Ispos Canada

Prince Edward Island (-7.4%). Only Ontario (+1.5%) and Manitoba (+1.1%) registered an increase in sales.

Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

- **Receipts for the food service and drinking places industry inched 0.7% higher (*seasonally adjusted*) in October.** While drinking places revenues dipped 1.4% during the month, food service establishments saw sales increased 0.9%.

  Nationally, receipts for the industry were up 0.8% in October led by limited-service eateries including fast-food restaurants (+1.1%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Lumber production at sawmills in British Columbia was up 7.2% in October compared to the same month in the previous year.** Accounting for roughly nine-tenths of BC's lumber output, Interior mills saw a 6.7% rise in production, while Coastal mills posted a significant increase in output (+11.7%). Year-to-date (January 2010 to October 2010), BC sawmills have registered an 18.8% increase in lumber production.

  Compared to the same month in the previous year, total Canadian lumber production rose 9.7% in October. Much of the increase was due to higher production in Quebec (+18.6%), Alberta (+10.7) and British Columbia (+7.2%).

  Data Source: SC Cat no. 35-003-X

Waste Management

- **In 2008, British Columbians produced just over 4.3 million tonnes of waste, or 984 kilograms of waste per person, a reduction of 2.5% in per person waste production compared to 2006.** Of this amount of waste, nearly two-thirds (65%) was either incinerated or sent to landfills for disposal, while the remainder (35%) was diverted for recycling, reprocessing or composting. BC's diversion rate, the proportion of total waste diverted from landfills, rose slightly from 32% in 2006 to 35% in 2008.

  Non-residential sources of waste make up the largest source of total waste. In 2008, non-residential sources accounted for 64% of all waste produced in British Columbia, with 32% of that being diverted to recovery processes or recycling plants. Households generate 34% of total waste and divert approximately 39% to recycling efforts.

  Roughly 1.5 million tonnes of waste was diverted away from incinerators or landfills in British Columbia in 2008. Approximately 23% of that was organic matter, 17% was cardboard and boxboard, 13% was construction/demolition waste and 8% was newsprint.

  Data Source: SC Cat no. 16F0023X

The Nation

- **Canada's real gross domestic product rose 0.2% (*seasonally adjusted*) in October, making up for a 0.1% decline in September.** Leading the way was the mining and oil & gas extraction sector, which advanced 2.4% during the month. Gains were also made by public administration (+0.2%), wholesale trade (+0.5%) and transportation & warehousing (+0.5%). Meanwhile, manufacturing (-0.6%), construction (-0.5%) and retail trade (-0.4%) were all weaker in October.

  Data Source: SC Cat no. 15-001-X

Oops!

A calculation error slipped into the December 17th edition of Infoline (Issue 10-50) highlights.

The fourth sentence in the bullet about energy consumption should have read:

British Columbians consumed 910 petajoules, roughly 12% of all energy consumed in the country.

***Infoline* Issue: 11-01**
January 7, 2011

Contact: Lillian Hallin
(250) 387-0366
originally published in
Business Indicators, issue 2010-12

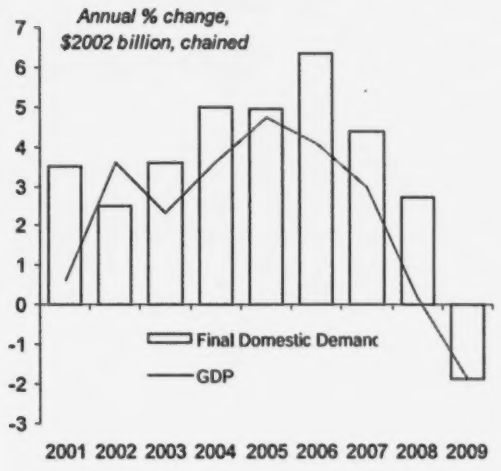
Infoline Report

Weaker growth in third quarter as economy loses some steam

BC's economy in the recession...

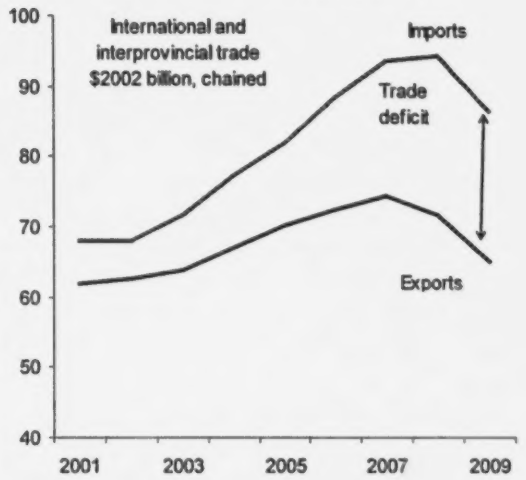
British Columbia's economy shrank 1.8%[1] in 2009 as business investment in new buildings, structures and equipment plunged and consumer spending stalled. Final domestic demand shrank 1.9% during the year, and external demand for goods and services produced in the province slumped. Although purchases of imported goods and services also declined, BC's trade deficit with other countries and provinces continued to grow. In 2009, the value of total imports consumed in BC was nearly a third higher than the province's total exports.

Weak domestic demand...



Data Source: Statistics Canada

...and a burgeoning trade deficit contributed to a 1.8% decline in GDP in 2009



Data Source: Statistics Canada

Despite the downturn, BC fared better than most other regions during 2009. The Canadian economy shrank 2.5%, with all provinces except Manitoba[2] posting at least a marginal decline in total GDP. Ontario, together with Saskat-chewan, Alberta and Newfoundland (provinces that have outperformed the national average in the recent past) all recorded slower-than-average growth in 2009.

...and beyond

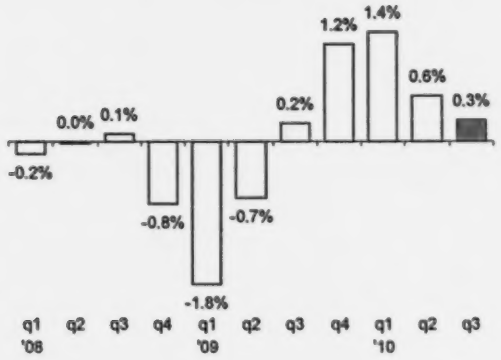
The Canadian economy began to emerge from the recession in the latter half of 2009, posting very strong growth at the end of the year and early in 2010. Since then, however, there have been some indications that the economy may be losing momentum. Third quarter growth was a modest 0.3%, and monthly industry data suggest that the economy shrank in September (-0.1%), marking the first monthly decline since August 2009.

[1] The figures quoted in this section are measured in chained 2002 dollars.

[2] Manitoba's GDP was unchanged from the 2008 level.

Slower growth in the Canadian economy

GDP at market prices, Canada, seasonally adjusted, % change from previous quarter



Data Source: Statistics Canada

As 2010 draws to a close, the economic situation in the province, like that in other parts of North America, remains unclear. Some indicators are very positive, while others are less robust. While many indicators have improved considerably throughout the year, the effects of the recent recession have left their mark, and it could take some time before the economy has fully recovered from the downturn.

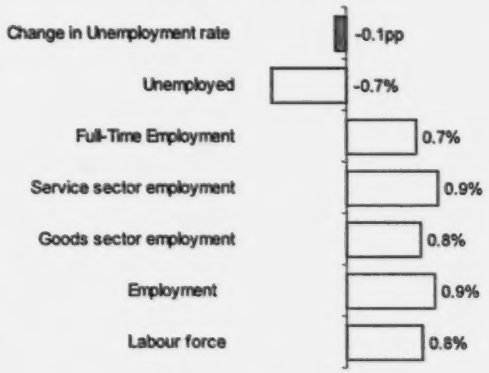
Labour market conditions improved

BC's unemployment rate during the third quarter averaged 7.4%, which was only marginally (-0.1 percentage point) less than the second quarter rate. Employers in both the goods and service sectors hired more workers. Job growth in the province was nearly double the Canadian increase, and stronger than in any other province except Newfoundland and Labrador. The number of Employment Insurance beneficiaries, which had been climbing as the ranks of the unemployed swelled, has stabilized, but at a higher level than during the early part of the decade.

However, labour market indicators were not all positive. Although full-time employment is rising, the number of people with part-time jobs has grown much more rapidly since the beginning of the year. British Columbia's unemployment rate remains well above levels seen in the recent past, and has declined only modestly from its peak of just over eight percent in late 2009.

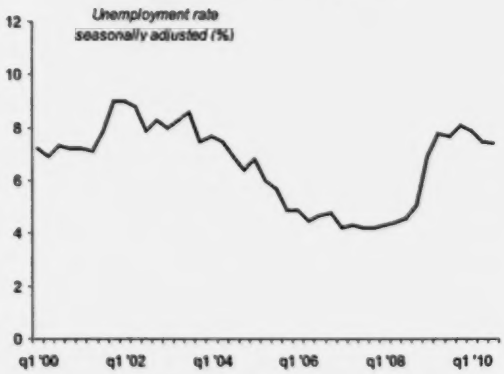
More people found jobs...

Labour market indicators, seasonally adjusted, % change from previous quarter



Data Source: Statistics Canada

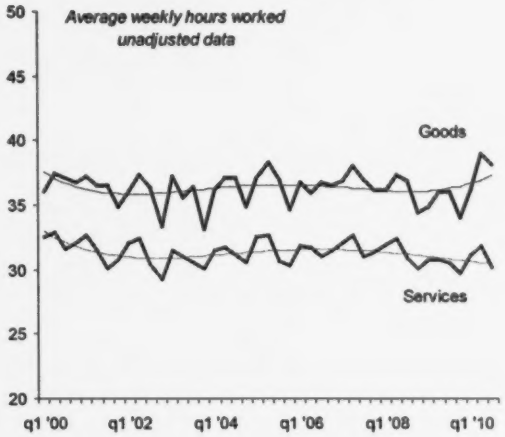
... but the unemployment rate was virtually unchanged in the third quarter



Data Source: Statistics Canada

Workers in goods-producing industries spent a little less time on the job (on average) in the third quarter. Average weekly hours worked in goods-producing industries had been trending up since late 2009. In the service sector, the trend remained slightly downward.

Workers in both goods and service industries spent less time on the job



Data Source: Statistics Canada

Labour income increased, but at the slowest rate since the third quarter of 2009

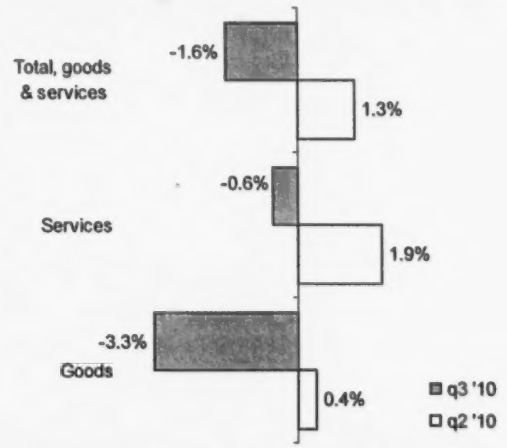
Data Source: Statistics Canada

Labour income, a measure which reflects employment levels, the number of hours spent on the job and wage rates, continued to rise in the third quarter. However, the rate of increase was the lowest recorded since the third quarter of 2009. This marked the third straight quarter in which labour income growth in BC has been below the national average. In fact, labour income growth in the province has remained at or below the national average since the beginning of 2008. During most of that time, the increase has been lower than in the country as a whole.

Consumer spending was restrained

Consumers kept the lid on spending, reducing their total purchases of goods and services by 1.6%[3] in the third quarter. Purchases of services slipped and spending on consumer goods was down significantly.

Consumer spending fell in the third quarter



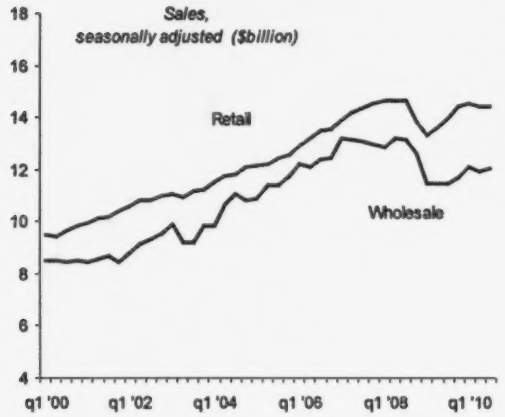
Consumer expenditures, % change from previous quarter, seasonally adjusted (2002 dollars)

Data Source: BC Stats estimates, based on preliminary data

Retailers felt the effects of more restraint on the part of consumers. Sales[4] declined for a second straight quarter, although the downturn was less pronounced than it had been earlier in the year. Sales by wholesalers bounced back after slumping in the spring.

[3] Consumer expenditures are reported in 2002 dollars.
[4] Retail and wholesale sales figures are reported in current dollars.

Wholesale sales remain well below pre-recession levels

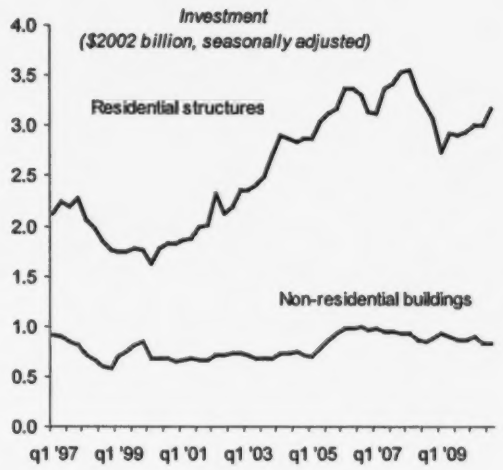


Data Source: Statistics Canada

While retail sales have virtually recovered to pre-recession levels, wholesale sales remain well below the levels seen prior to the recent downturn. Normally, sales follow a general upward trend, as price changes put upward pressure on the total value of sales even when there is little change in the volume of goods sold. Wholesalers provide inputs used by other producers and the fact that wholesale sales remain well below pre-recession levels suggests that some of their customers are still not buying as much as they were prior to the recession.

Housing market weaker in third quarter

Investment in residential structures continues to rise



Data Source: Statistics Canada and BC Stats

Investment in residential structures, which includes the value of new housing construction, improvements to existing dwellings, real estate commissions and other charges related to the transfer of property, rebounded in the third quarter. However, business spending on non-residential buildings remained relatively flat.

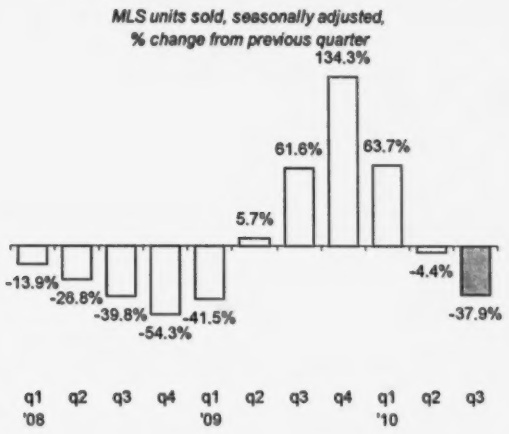
BC housing starts slip again

Data Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

Housing starts, which had been on the rebound after plunging to their lowest level in decades in

2009, slid back 1.5% in the third quarter. This was the second straight decline in starts, following three quarters of nearly 30% growth.

Housing resales were down in the third quarter



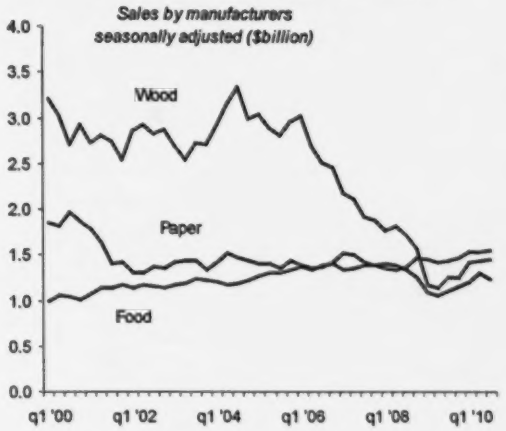
Data Source: Canadian Real Estate Association data, seasonally adjusted by BC Stats

Manufacturing sales rise but exports slip in third quarter

Sales of goods manufactured in the province rose 1.6%[5] in the third quarter. Wood manufacturers increased their sales 1.4%, and producers of computers and electronics saw shipments jump 11.9%. However, shipments by producers of paper products slipped 5.1% and total sales by non-durables manufacturers inched down 0.1%.

With the recent decline in the forest sector, there has been some realignment in BC's manufacturing sector. Wood and paper production has historically dominated manufacturing in the province. At present, however, the value of wood products shipped in BC has been cut down to less than 50% of 2000 levels. With a concurrent slump in paper shipments, the food industry has moved into the number one position in the province, at least in terms of sales. However, the wood industry remains the dominant contributor to total manufacturing GDP.

Total sales by food manufacturers now exceed those of wood and paper producers



Data Source: Statistics Canada

BC commodity exports[6] slipped 3.8% in the third quarter. Exports to the US were down 5.7% while shipments to other destinations dropped 2.1%.

A mixed bag of results in the tourism sector, but most indicators were weak

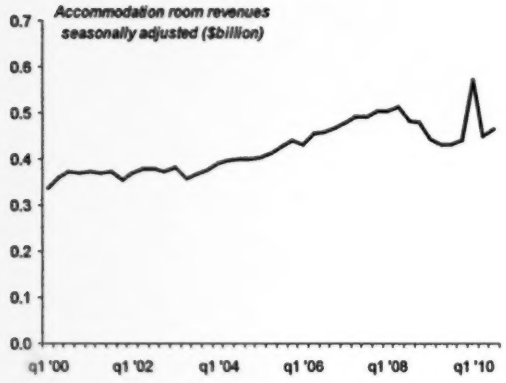
Many tourist-related establishments received a boost in the winter months, when the province welcomed visitors who came to watch or participate in the Olympic Games. With the departure of the athletes and guests, business returned back to more normal levels.

Room revenues at traveller accommodations are now back on track, rising slightly during the third quarter following a post-Olympic slump earlier in the year. However, sales at food service and drinking places (which serve tourists as well as local customers) dipped in the third quarter and entries to BC from the US and overseas continued to slide.

[5] Manufacturing sales are reported in current dollars.

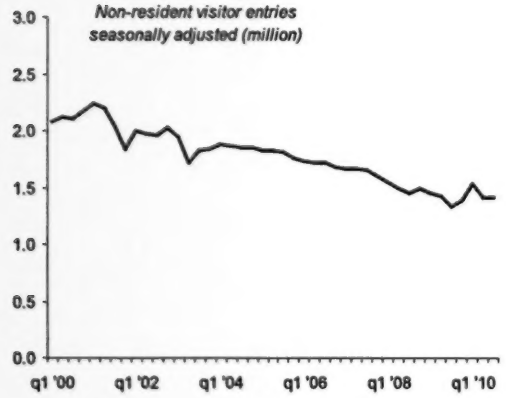
[6] Exports are reported in current dollars.

Room revenues back on track...



Data Source: BC Stats

...but visitor entries continue to slip



Data Source: Statistics Canada and BC Stats

How did BC's economy fare in the third quarter?

British Columbia's economy continued to send out mixed signals in the third quarter, with some economic indicators making solid gains while others struggled.

Overall, however, the indicators suggest the economy entered a period of slower growth in the third quarter, which is hardly surprising given the economic conditions in the rest of Canada and in key international markets for BC products.

Despite robust growth earlier in the year, some key economic indicators remain well below pre-recession levels. The confidence of consumers and businesses in the economy still seems fragile, and could easily be shaken by external shocks. The world economic and financial situation remains a cause for concern. It is possible that BC, along with the rest of Canada, could find itself on a somewhat bumpy economic road in the coming months.

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Join us for a one day workshop that will help you define your target audience, use statistics to present your story and put statistics into a context that your audience can understand.

This is a hands-on workshop in which participants will have the chance to practice what is being taught with simple exercises and a variety of examples from real data collected from Statistics Canada. Emphasis is put on how to define and approach your target audience and how to get your message across in five easy to follow steps. As a result, you will get your message out in the most effective manner.

VICTORIA

January 27, 2011
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Venue:
Room 402, PWGSC
1230 Government St.
Victoria, BC V8W 3X4

Register early as space is limited

Fee is $300 + HST

Early registration: $275 + HST

(Early bird registration is extended until January 13, 2011)

Workshop Topics include:

- Five steps of turning statistics into stories
- Methods of presenting data
- Determine the readership
- Sources of data
- Standard classifications
- Statistical techniques: Adjustments
- Writing with numbers
- Use of graphs and charts

Learn from the Survey Experts!!

F.T.

REGISTRATION

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Title: _____

Organization: _____

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To register or for more information, please contact:
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Suite 600, 300 West Georgia
West Georgia St., Vancouver, BC V6B 6C7
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Cancellation Policy - Cancellations received in writing 7 business days prior to the start date of the workshop will receive a full refund. After that date no refunds will be made, but a one-time substitution will be permitted. Please advise the Workshop Coordinator 3 business days before the workshop for substitutions. However, if you do not cancel and do not attend, you will be charged the full registration fee and no substitutions will be made. Travel and accommodation expenses are the responsibility of the workshop participants.

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Statistics Canada's Survey Skills Workshops

Call for our workshop calendar!

Understanding and Interpreting Data

This is a practical statistical course that covers the basic aspects of survey data analysis. This course will appeal to novice analysts and those who are required to interpret statistical findings. It provides an overview of basic types of research as well as analytical requirements. This is followed by a short treatment of survey sampling and types of data.

Some of the analytical techniques that will be covered include cross tabulations, chi-square and some aspects of linear regression. The workshop includes a hands on data analysis exercise and a discussion on the principles for presenting results.

VANCOUVER

February 3-4, 2011
8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

2nd Floor (Library Square)
300 West Georgia St.
Vancouver, BC

Register early as space is limited

Fee is $550 + taxes

Early registration: $499 + taxes (at least 3 weeks prior)

Workshop Topics include:

- Analytical requirements and sources of data
- Survey design and sampling methods
- Types of Data
- Confidence intervals
- Grouping and graphic data
- Analytical techniques
- Interpreting and presenting analytical results

Learn from the Survey Experts!!

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Infoline

January 7, 2011
Issue 11–01

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also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca or choose RSS

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Oct 1/2010	% change on one year ago
BC	4,551.9	1.5
Canada	34,238.0	1.2
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 4)		
(BC - at market prices)	2009	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	191,006	-3.4
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	161,851	-1.8
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)*	36,287	-3.5
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	25,374	-1.9
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Oct 2010	3,043	-0.4
Merchandise Exports - Oct 2010	2,444	0.8
Retail Sales - Oct 2010	4,866	1.2
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on one year ago	12-month avg % change
(all items - Nov 2010)		
BC	2.2	1.2
Vancouver	2.6	1.6
Victoria	2.0	0.9
Canada	2.0	1.7
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on prev. month
(seasonally adjusted)	Dec 2010	
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	-22.5	
Labour Force - BC	2,492.9	-0.2
Employed - BC	2,303.6	-1.0
Unemployed - BC	189.3	9.4
		Nov 2010
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	7.6	6.9
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.6	7.6
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Jan 5/2011	Jan 6/2010
Prime Business Rate	3.00	2.25
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.35	3.60
- 5 year	5.19	5.49
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Jan 5/2011	Jan 6/2010
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	0.9947	1.0334
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	1.0036	0.9685
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on one year ago
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Dec 2010	
BC	819.14	0.5
Canada	830.22	2.4

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Science Related Occupations

How many people work in science-related occupations? Which industries employ them? What's the labour market outlook for workers in these occupations? A recently-released report on science-related occupations explores these issues. On WorkBC site; authored by BC Stats.

http://workbc.ca/docs/BC_Science_Related_Occupations.pdf

Trade Occupations Outlook to 2019

The BC Trade Occupations Outlook report provides an outlook for trade occupations for the province as a whole, as well as for its seven development regions for the period 2009-2019. The analysis is based on a representative list of 15 trade occupations covering 82 separate trades and over 85 percent of active B.C. apprentices as of June 30, 2010. Selected occupations are concentrated in two NOC skill types: Trades, Transport and Equipment Operators and Related Occupations (NOC7), and Sales and Service Occupations (NOC6). The occupational forecast included in this report comes from the B.C. Labour Market Outlook: 2009-2019 report, which was produced from B.C.'s new Labour Market Scenario Model.

http://workbc.ca/docs/BC_tradesoccupationoutlook_2009-2019.pdf

Small Business Profile 2010

The 2010 Edition of the annual profile of small business in British Columbia is now available. The report provides information on British Columbia's small businesses, including number of businesses, employment and small business' contribution to the provincial economy.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/bus_stat/busind/sm_bus.asp#sbp

Released this week by BC Stats

- Business Indicators, December 2010 was released last week
- Labour Force Statistics, December 2010
- Earnings & Employment Trends, Dec. 2010

Next week

- Exports, November 2010

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